

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01528 041812Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3919

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USNATO 6019

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UR

SUBJECT: BERLIN REACTION TO PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON QA

1. HEAVY COVERAGE WAS GIVEN IN BERLIN PRESS SEPTEMBER 4 TO PRAVDA COMMENTARY MARKING THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNATURE OF QA, WHICH, WHILE PRAISING AGREEMENT AS LAYING FOUNDATION FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF WEST BERLIN AND THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO DETENTE, WARNED THAT UNLAWFUL AND UNILATERAL ACTIONS TAKEN CONTRARY TO QA WOULD NOT GO WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES (COMMENTARY ACCUSED "SEVERAL POLITICIANS IN BONN RULING COALITION" AND IN BERLIN SENAT OF "INCONSISTENCY" IN IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT; AND DISMISSED NOTION OF SOVIET UNION OR GDR MAKING CONCESSIONS OVER BERLIN AS MEANS OF FURTHERING DETENTE.)

2. ALTHOUGH PRAVDA COMMENTARY REPRESENTS ESSENTIALLY A REITERATION OF KNOWN SOVIET POSITIONS AND DOES NOT STRIKE US AS PARTICULARLY IMMODERATE IN TONE, BERLIN PRESS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 01528 041812Z

POLITICAL CIRCLES HAVE STRESSED ITS NEGATIVE ASPECTS,

CONCLUDING PIECE WAS INTENDED TO DAMPEN BERLIN EXPECTATIONS IN REGARD TO GROMYKO'S SEPTEMBER 15 BONN VISIT. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ REMARKED THAT HE COULD ONLY RECOMMEND TO RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN SOVIET UNION THAT THEY AGAIN LOOK CLOSELY AT QA AND AT NEGOTIATING RECORD; PERHAPS THEY WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT PRAVDA INTERPRETATION OF AGREEMENT HAD NO FOUNDATION IN TEXTS. SCHUETZ ADDED THAT IT WAS TIME SOVIET UNION STRICTLY OBSERVED AND FULLY IMPLEMENTED EVERY POINT OF QA. BERLIN CDU CHAIRMAN LORENZ SAID THAT PRAVDA ARTICLE LED TO ENESCAPABLE CONCLUSION THAT SOVIETS WERE STILL PURSUING AS LONG-TERM GOAL ISOLATION OF WEST BERLIN AND ITS ANNEXATION BY GDR. IN VIEW OF WHAT HE TERMED SOVIET EFFORT TO ASSERT PERMANENT RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN WEST BERLIN AFFAIRS, LORENZ URGED THAT SOVIETS BE PUT ON NOTICE THAT WESTERN ALLIES HAD EXCLUSIVE COMPETENT IN THIS AREA.

3. EDITORIAL IN BERLINER MORGENPOST (SPRINGER) CALLED PRAVDA COMMENTARY PROOF THAT SOVIETS WERE PLANNING TO MISUE QA AS PLATFORM FOR OFFENSIVE POLICY AGAINST WEST BERLIN BASED ON CONTENTION, WHICH SOVIETS APPARENTLY SAW CONFIRMED IN QA, THAT WEST BERLIN WAS SEPARATE POLITICAL ENTITY. IN COMMENTARY ENTITLED "THE ANSWER LIES IN BONN," TAGESSPIEGEL (INDEPENDENT) ACCUSED SOVIET UNION OF CONVENIENTLY DISREGARDING BALANCE OF INTERESTS ACHIEVED IN QA NOW THAT IT WISHED TO WITHDRAW RECOGNITION OF FRG-WEST BERLIN TIES. TAGESSPIEGEL NOTED THAT BERLIN COULD NOT SURVIVE AS ISOLATED ISLAND DEFENDED BY WESTERN ALLIES FOR ITS OWN SAKE; ONLY IF BONN SIGNIFIED IN PRACTICE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHED TO FRG-BERLIN TIES WOULD ALLIES TAKE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY AND CITY REMAIN VIABLE.

4. SEPTEMBER 3 PRAVDA COMMENTARY WAS REPRINTED IN EXTENSO IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND SEPTEMBER 4. SELIGMANN

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